



A MONTHLY ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER TO THE 41st ASSEMBLY DISTRICT
 (Including Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Encino, Malibu, Hidden Hills, Lake Sherwood, Oak Park, Pacific Palisades,
 Port Hueneme, South Oxnard, Santa Monica, Tarzana, Topanga, Westlake Village, and Woodland Hills.)

AUGUST 2004 ISSUE

District Activities for September

With August 31 the end of the legislative session in Sacramento, I'm looking forward to spending more time in my district and meeting with constituents.

Here's what's coming up in September:

- **Topanga, Sept. 8 – Identity Theft Workshop**
 with the Office of Privacy Protection
 Topanga Community House
 1440 Topanga Canyon Blvd.
 (6 mi. north of PCH.)
 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- **Agoura Hills, Sept. 9 – Identity Theft Workshop**
 with the Office of Privacy Protection
 Agoura Hills City Hall
 30001 Ladyface Court
 (Off Agoura Road, east of Reyes Adobe Road)
 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- **Channel Islands, Sept. 12 – Mobile District Office**
 meet/greet with the community
 Farmer's Market
 3350 S. Harbor Blvd.
 (by Marine Emporium Landing)
 10:00 a.m. to noon
- **Santa Monica, Sept. 18 – Mobile District Office**
 meet/greet with the community.
 The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf
 3150 Ocean Park Blvd.
 (complimentary parking at the Santa Monica Business Park on 31st Street)
 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.



I hope that one of these events may be a convenient place and time for you to come by and say hello. It's very valuable to me to hear from constituents so I can stay aware of the issues that are important to the citizens I represent. For more information on any of these, call my District Office.

Californians Rank Environmental Issues High

Last month, the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) released its statewide “*Special Survey on Californians and the Environment*.” The PPIC is a private nonpartisan operating foundation doing independent research. Studies are examining the underlying forces shaping California's future cutting across a wide range of public policy concerns, including education, health care, immigration, income distribution, welfare, urban growth, and state and local finance. This survey focused on public perceptions, policy preferences, and political choices regarding air quality and energy-related issues. PPIC's conclusion from the survey responses was that Californians want environmental protection even if there are some financial costs. (PPIC press release July 22, 2004.)

Here are a few of their findings on public attitudes toward air quality:



- Nearly half of the people in the Los Angeles area think that the state is not doing enough. 60% said that the Federal government isn't doing enough.
- 72% ranked air pollution as a health threat as either “somewhat” or “very” serious.
- The issue crosses party lines. 88% of Democrats, 71% of Republicans, and 86% of Independents favor laws to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from new cars beginning with the 2009 model year. (This is my bill, AB 1493, that was signed into law in 2002.)
- Eight out of ten SUV owners agree. 66% said they would support adding a few dollars to their vehicle license fees to pay for programs that would reduce diesel emissions from buses and trucks.
- 90% support requiring trucks from Mexico to meet Federal air pollution standards. (My bill, AB 1009.)
- 73% support requiring auto makers to improve fuel efficiency, even if the cost of the car goes up. (Fuel efficiency standards are exclusively Federal issues.)
- 67% support allowing solo drivers of hybrid vehicles to use carpool lanes. (My bill, AB 2628.)

You can review this very interesting report on the PPIC website at www.ppic.org, or you can contact them at survey@ppic.org.

West Nile Virus in California

With an increasing number of stories in the press recently about cases of West Nile virus in our state and locally, it's prudent to be aware of the dangers of this newly-arrived virus and what you can do.

- Recognize it. People over 50 and those with compromised immune systems are most vulnerable. Symptoms are flu-like, and include fever, headache, tiredness, body aches, swollen lymph glands, and/or skin rash. If you believe that you have symptoms, call your doctor.
- Protect against it. Avoid spending time outside when mosquitos are active (dawn and dusk). Use insect repellents containing DEET and wear long pants, long sleeve shirts and other protective clothing when outside. Drain all standing water around your property. Make sure all doors and windows have tight-fitting screens to keep mosquitos out. Report dead birds to your local health department immediately. They could be evidence that the virus has moved into a new region, and they must be tested within 24 hours.
- Stay Informed. Contact your local mosquito and vector control agency if there is a significant mosquito problem where you live or work.

L.A. County West Vector Control District
Phone: 310-915-7370
www.lawestvector.org

Ventura County Environmental Health Division
Phone: 805-654-2816
<http://www.ventura.org/envhealth>

The California Department of Health Services also has a Hot Line on West Nile at (877) 968-2473. You can also go to their website at www.westnile.ca.gov/facts.htm.

"California Performance Review" Released

On August 3, the Governor's California Performance Review (CPR) was released to the public. This 2500-page review looked at all parts of state government and produced a list of over 1,000 recommendations for consideration that might produce efficiencies or cost savings. Public workshops on various parts of the CPR have been scheduled statewide over the next month (see schedule, below). The closest one for residents of the 41st Assembly District will be at Cal State Long Beach on **Friday, September 10 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

Will the public have any opportunity to comment on this review?

Yes. Seven public workshops have been scheduled. Two have just been held in Riverside and San Diego. Although each workshop will be on a different subject area of the CPR, they will take public comments on all parts of the document at the end of each day. Dates are still tentative, so check the CPR website for current information and details at www.cpr.ca.gov.

August 13	UC Riverside – Infrastructure
August 20	UC San Diego – Health and Human Services
August 27	San Jose State University – General Government, IT, Management
September 9	Cal State Long Beach – Education, Training, Volunteerism
September 10	Cal State Long Beach – Corrections Reform, Public Safety
September 17	Cal State Fresno – Resource Conservation, Environmental Protection
September 27	UC Davis – Government Reorganization

You can also write letters, call, and/or e-mail the CPR:

E-mail: Go to the CPR website at www.cpr.ca.gov, and click on "Submit Testimony"
Please send me a copy at assemblymember.pavley@assembly.ca.gov
Phone: (916) 322-8888
Write: CPR
1102 Q Street, 6th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

You can contact the Little Hoover Commission:

E-mail: Go to their website at www.lhc.ca.gov
Phone: (916) 445-2125
Write: Little Hoover Commission
925 L Street, Suite 805
Sacramento, CA 95814

How will the final CPR recommendations, with any revisions, be implemented?

After the final public workshop, the CPR team will compile all comments, testimony, letters, etc. and submit that feedback to the Governor. The Governor can make revisions to the CPR if he wishes, and has several options. He can use any or all of them.

1. Submit reorganization plans to the Little Hoover Commission (an independent state oversight and efficiencies agency) at least 30 days before he submits them to the Legislature.
2. Have legislators introduce CPR legislation for him.
3. Introduce CPR proposals next year as part of the 2005-06 budget.

If the Governor decides to submit ideas via the Little Hoover Commission, when and how would that happen?

January 1, 2005 is the earliest date the Governor can submit the plans to the Legislature.

- The Little Hoover Commission analyzes the plan and creates a report with recommendations that is submitted to the Legislature.
- Once the Legislature receives the plan, it must act within 60 days.
- The Legislature can form a committee and hold hearings, but no amendments can be made. If an amendment is made, the revised plan must be resubmitted by the Governor to the Little Hoover Commission and the process starts over again.
- Legislature must approve by a majority vote.

The media, legislators and staff, and the public are all beginning to analyze the impacts of the CPR recommendations. Some, however, that would appear to save money or make government more efficient, may also have unintended negative consequences.

For example, moving back the birthdate which is used to determine when a child can start kindergarten from December 1 to September 1 would save the state money, and 26 other states use a September 1 date. In addition, kindergarten is much more academic and demanding than it used to be. I've spoken to kindergarten teachers who tell me that many of their students just aren't ready. But everyone who is involved in education seems to agree that having children born in September, October or November wait another year will not be beneficial unless they are in preschool. Otherwise, in most cases, those children will just be further behind. I have a bill, AB 2970 (currently being held in the Appropriations Committee) that would give districts the option of moving back their entrance birthdate, using their ADA (average daily attendance per-pupil money) for preschool programs for these younger children. Districts without a preschool program would not be able to adjust their entrance date.

Too many of California's children are just not ready for today's kindergarten curriculum. Preschool experience, with a district's oversight and articulation that focuses on English language development, shapes, sounds, small motor coordination, letters and numbers, and listening to and discussing stories is in the best interest of today's children. Having a child sit at home for another year might not be.

Other CPR recommendations include eliminating many boards and commissions. I'm sure that some could be reduced in membership and/or consolidated. However, a careful review of the purpose and value of each such board and commission is critical to preserving public participation and oversight in the decision-making process. Despite what you may have heard, very few members of these boards and commissions receive salaries. Most are reimbursed for travel expenses, as approved.

I am particularly concerned about the proposed elimination of the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and the Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCB).

- The CARB is made up of highly-respected experts in a variety of areas such as health, related businesses, and a representative from each regional air quality district. Public hearings with public input helps to insure a forum for different opinions. They also provide critical transparency to prevent back-room dealing. All board members are required to fill out forms disclosing all "ex parte" communications (those outside of public meetings) and they are also required to submit conflict-of-interest forms to the Fair Political Practices Commission.
- The RWQCBs, with local input and local hearings, help set enforcement regulations to reduce pollutants in stormwater runoff and contamination of drinking water supplies. They also help insure that the "total maximum daily load" requirements of the Federal Clean Water Act are not exceeded. With over 500 impaired water bodies in California, they have enormous responsibility to protect our state's water. Cleaning up our ocean and beaches is in the best interest of our economically vital tourism industry.

A further CPR goal of reducing State employees is one way to save money, but only if those lost positions do not have an adverse impact on the health and safety of our citizens. We need an adequate level of public safety personnel, staff to enforce regulations of those who would pollute our air and water, etc. My district office, for example, receives calls every week complaining about things like long lines at the DMV after they tried to provide services with less staff. Other technological options should be considered first, such as renewals and other basic transactions that might be handled on line, to make sure that staff reductions do not result delays, bad service, or errors.

Re-evaluating and analyzing the way that California conducts its business is healthy. Many of the recommendations may have merit. Stay tuned. And once you've reviewed any parts of the CPR for yourself, I'd like to know what you think.

Unclaimed Money and Property

Every day the State of California receives thousands of dollars in unclaimed cash, stocks, securities, safe deposit contents, and other property from inactive accounts. You may even receive a solicitation in the mail from a company offering to do a search for you. However, you can do your own search at no cost through the State Controller's Office on-line database. Just go to www.sco.ca.gov/col/ucp/index.shtml and type in your name, or call my District Office and we'll do a search for you. Claim forms are also available on-line. Over \$3.2 billion is currently being held by the state, waiting to be claimed.

Santa Monica Receives Water Treatment Grant

Congratulations to the City of Santa Monica, who just received a Clean Beaches Initiative Grant in the amount of \$980,000 from the State Water Resources Control Board. These are voter-approved Proposition 13 funds. The City will use this money for construction of a diversion system at the end of Wilshire Blvd. It will divert runoff to the sanitary sewer system to be treated and then discharged into the Pacific Ocean. Completion of this project is expected to reduce or eliminate postings at Santa Monica beach warning swimmers of the presence of bacteria in the ocean.

Pacific Palisades "Movies in the Park"

Series a Summer Hit

Congratulations to the Palisades Chamber of Commerce, the Palisades Friends of Film, and resident John Wirth, who collaborated on an enormously successful "Movies in the Park" series this summer. Three films were shown on a 15 x 20 foot screen on the grass outfield at the Palisades Recreation Center, where families picnicked and played before the movies started. An estimated 400 people came out for the first movie, "E.T.", and the number grew to 700 for the last film, "The Wizard of Oz." "It was bigger than we ever expected and it just kept growing. People pretended it was the Hollywood Bowl, bringing collapsible tables and gourmet food," said Arnie Wishnick, President of the Chamber.

Bay Restoration Commission Offers

Reimbursement Funds

The Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (SMBRC) is accepting proposals from community groups, educators, trade and business associations, artists, public agencies and others seeking Public Involvement and Education (PIE) funding. PIE funds are available to encourage the development of projects that educate L.A. County residents on ways to restore and protect the Santa Monica Bay.

Because the purpose of short-term PIE funding is to increase and diversify new educational outreach efforts, priority is given to new programs. PIE funds are not grants, but service contracts to reimburse costs. For more information, visit the SMBRC website at www.santamonica.org, and follow the "Library" link to "Documents and Reports."



Second LNG Facility Applies For Offshore Oxnard

Crystal Energy, a Texas corporation, has resubmitted its State and Federal applications to build a liquefied natural gas (LNG) facility off the Oxnard coast. This is the second application – BHP Billiton, an Australian company is already in the environmental review stage – from a company hoping to pump LNG along the ocean

floor from offshore to a connecting pipeline through the City of Oxnard. Crystal's initial application was sent back by the Coast Guard and the State Lands Commission for more information.

These two projects and their possible impacts are being very closely monitored by the cities of Oxnard and Malibu, and by other beach communities and local officials. My office is also staying closely informed as both Crystal and BHP move through the environmental process. A public scoping hearing on Crystal's proposed project will be scheduled for some time this fall. I'll publish the places and dates as soon as they are available.

Oxnard Union High School District Gets Fit

Under state law, only two years of physical education (PE) coursework is required for high school students, which are usually taken in the 9th and 10th grades. Fifth, seventh and ninth graders must take a fitness test each spring. The Oxnard Union District believes so strongly in physical fitness that in January they required 10th graders enrolled in PE classes also to take the state fitness test. Students failing to meet standards in at least three of six areas of assessment are required to take PE in the 11th grade to graduate. In 2005, sophomores will be required to pass four of six areas or face a third year of PE.

Health teachers will focus more on nutrition in the classroom, and the district will replace half of its soda machines with machines offering healthier drinks. School cafeterias will offer more nutritious foods to choose from, starting this fall.

Many of America's children between 5 and 8 already show at least one of the following heart-disease risk factors: obesity, elevated cholesterol, or high blood pressure. Diabetes is on the rise. Most students can't run a mile in less than 10 minutes or do a single pull up.

Congratulations to the Oxnard Union High School District for this very proactive approach to helping their students lead healthy lives.

Agoura High Grad Takes Olympic Bronze

I was thrilled to watch Agoura High School graduate and distance runner, Deena Drossin Kastor, pull steadily from 28th place just five kilometers into Saturday's Olympic Games marathon, and systematically pass runner after runner in steamy Athens heat. A final push, when other runners were fading or had dropped out, and she surged into the stadium to finish a strong third, winning the Olympic Bronze medal.

Then Deena Drossin, she got her start as a distance runner at age 13 when she was living in Agoura Hills, graduating from Agoura High School in 1991. She became nationally recognized and honored in NCAA, All American, Southeastern Conference, and other major races all through the 1990s. It was clear that here was an elite athlete destined for the Olympics. She blew away the competition at the Olympic Trials in Sacramento.

This remarkable Olympic win makes Deena the first American woman since 1984 to medal in the marathon. Her coaches and all the people in the Agoura Hills community who knew her so well must surely be bursting with pride. Deena now lives in Mammoth Lakes, where she has been training for this race by running more than 100 miles a week.

Health Insurance Rebate Program

As insurance costs have risen, L.A. Care Health Plan has launched an innovative pilot program in Los Angeles County, funded by the Blue Shield of California Foundation. Called **HealthyRebates**, it is a one-year health insurance pilot program that provides a direct rebate to currently insured, low-income individuals and families. They can receive \$20 per covered person, up to \$100 per month or up to \$1,200 per year to help pay their health insurance premiums. **HealthyRebates** is designed to assist families who must purchase coverage on their own because their employer does not offer coverage.

Qualifying plans are: Blue Cross of California, Blue Shield of California, HealthNet, Kaiser Permanente, PacifiCare, UHP, and Universal Care.

Applications are available by calling L.A. Care's Enrollment Center at (866) 527-3228, or by visiting the **HealthyRebates** website at www.healthyrebates.org. Household income must not exceed 200% of the federal poverty level. You must be a resident of Los Angeles County.

Environmental Grants to Governments/Nonprofits

Each year the Resources Agency offers all governmental agencies and nonprofit agencies in California the opportunity to apply for Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program (EEMP) grants. These grants fund projects to help mitigate the negative environmental impacts of transportation projects in addition to the mitigation measures required under the California Environmental Quality Act. Many local government organizations and interest groups can apply for an EEMP grant.

The EEMP grant application cycle for Fiscal Year 2005/06 is starting now. Applications are due at the Resources Agency **on or before Friday, November 19, 2004**. EEM grant instructions and the application form are available on the web at www.resources.ca.gov/eem. If you can't access the Resources web page, please contact my District Office to have a package sent to you electronically. Or you may request a hard copy of the documents from the Resources Agency, 1416 Ninth Street, Room 1311, Sacramento, CA 95814.

California Last in U.S. in Per Capita Arts Funding

There is no question that California's budget priorities have had to be issues such as education, health care, and public safety in these times of severely limited state funds. Nevertheless, I regret seeing our state, which is proud home to the film, arts and entertainment industries that contribute so much to our economy, providing so little support for the arts.

Here's one example:

Funding for the California Arts Council has shrunk from \$30 million in 2000-2001, to \$17 million in 2002-03, to \$1 million in this fiscal year 2004-05. The Legislature increased this to \$2 million, but the Governor used his line-item veto to cut the \$1 million increase. The result will be fewer grants to local arts groups for activities such as children's art workshops, community concerts, local theater, and many other wonderful cultural events.

Sadly, these cuts have now left California last in the nation in per capita spending. Who's first? Hawaii, at \$5.25 in arts funding per person. Wyoming is fifth in the nation at \$2.69 per capita. Texas is 48th, and California now ranks at the bottom nationally at 9¢ per person. Many nonprofit organizations have significantly cut their programs, which will hit poorer communities particularly hard since they may have a more difficult time attracting private donations.

Malibu Creek Watershed Tour

On Saturday, September 11, members of the Malibu Creek Watershed Advisory Council Education Subcommittee, in partnership with the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains, will be hosting a very interesting day-long event called "From the Headwaters to the Lagoon." The day starts at the Upper Las Virgenes Canyon Open Space Preserve (formerly Ahmanson Ranch) with events from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The bus tour takes off at 11:50 a.m., and includes a boxed lunch.



Guest speakers will interpret key issues and elements of the watershed from the Malibu lagoon all the way to the headwaters in Calabasas. For more information on what promises to be a great way to learn more about the beautiful but fragile environment of the Santa Monica Mountains, e-mail Melina Watts at mwatts@rcdsmm.org, or call her at (310) 455-1030, ext. 104. Although I'm unable to join the tour itself, I'm planning to speak to the group at the conclusion of the tour on the incredible acquisition of Upper Las Virgenes Canyon.

Assemblymember Pavley's Committee Assignments

Appropriations Committee
Arts, Entertainment, Sports, Tourism, and Internet Media Committee
Budget Committee
Education Committee
Transportation Committee
Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee
Select Committee on California Ports
Select Committee on Coastal Protection
Select Committee on the Future of California's Health
Select Committee on National Defense, Technology and Jobs
Select Committee on Sustainability
Select Committee on Title IX
Chair, Select Committee on Air and Water Quality
Chair, Select Committee on Hydrogen and Other Alternative Fuels
Chair, Budget Subcommittee #3 on Resources
Legislative Advisory Committee – Wildlife Conservation Board
Legislative Advisory Committee – California Coastal Conservancy
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Board

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If you know of anyone who you think would like to receive these newsletters, please e-mail their name, mailing address and e-mail address, and I'll be happy to add them to my list.

